

incomplete analysis by the Applicant and the Examiner is respectfully requested to additionally consider the below remarks in his response to the July 21 Amendment.

As can be seen in Fig. 1, below, the final emission angle in the case of the inclination angle disclosed by U.S. Patent No. 6,285,426 ("426") could be more properly characterized as being in the vicinity of 80 degrees for an acrylic resin display material if the '426 inclination angle were substituted for the inclination angle range of the claimed invention. The emitted light is at about 40 degrees within the display material but is further refracted upon emission due to the refractive index difference between the surface of the display and air, and the emission angle is based on Snell's law at the time of the final emission from the display. This exaggerated emission angle would certainly create adverse viewing conditions if the claimed invention had a 15-degree inclination angle as in the device of '426; therefore, '426 does not anticipate the claims of the present application.

In addition, the Applicant provides Fig. 2, which shows travel of the light within the '426 device when the light source is coming from the side surface. In this case, the light reflected on the prisms is totally reflected at the upper surface, so the light cannot go out. If the inclination angle is made larger than 20 degrees, the transmitted light tends to be emitted since the incident angle on the upper surface is made smaller, but the external light then cannot be used as described in the case of Fig. 1. Consequently, '426 cannot utilize both external light and transmitted light efficiently even if the inclination angle is different from that disclosed.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/781,278

Figure 1

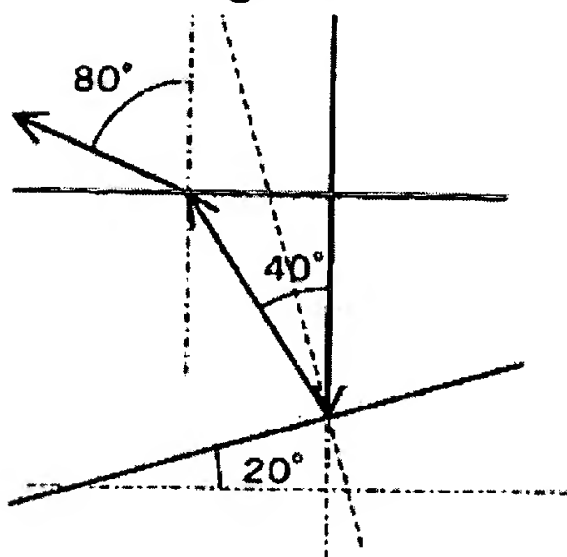
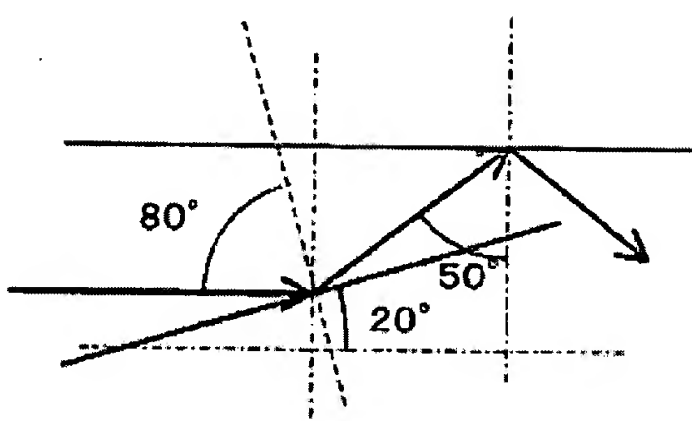


Figure 2



Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 1, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: Q63079